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Secretary Gassman Meets with Wausau Students Enrolled in *Project Lead the Way* Program

Sets students on future career paths

Wausau – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today highlighted the *Project Lead the Way* (PLTW) program at Wausau East High School during an Introduction to Engineering Design class.

“*Project Lead the Way* is a great way to help our students broaden their horizons,” Secretary Roberta Gassman said. “The program’s goals to increase the number of young people who pursue engineering programs align perfectly with the department’s objectives to ensure we provide training opportunities for today’s students as we build our future workforce.”

Secretary Gassman and John Farrow, engineering professor at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, presented banners to both Wausau East and West High Schools for *Project Lead the Way* High School National Certification Recognition. National certification enables students to receive college credits for the PLTW engineering classes they take in high school.

Project Lead The Way Inc. (PLTW) is a national program that forms partnerships among public schools, higher education institutions and the private sector to increase the quantity and quality of engineers graduating from our education system. First developed in the 1980’s, PLTW is now offered in more than 45 states and the District of Columbia.

DWD and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) have formed a partnership to provide a total of \$33,500 for the school’s program. During today’s visit, Secretary Gassman highlighted that DPI has provided \$21,600 and DWD has provided \$11,900 to Wausau schools for PLTW for the 2006-07 school year.

“Governor Doyle’s **Grow Wisconsin** plan calls for leading our youth down a path that allows them to gain new skills and plan for their future careers,” Secretary Gassman said. “Thirty-five new schools have added PLTW programs this year, bringing the total number of schools participating to 92 and we are continuing to grow. This truly is a great success story for Wisconsin and our industries.”

For more information on the program, go to <http://www.pltw.org/aindex.htm>

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